

Agency Information

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BENTLEY, PAUL L.
DALLAS POLICE DEPARTMENT
TIPPITT, J; SHOOTING
OSWALD, LEE; ACTIVITIES OF 22-24 NOVEMBER 1963
POLYGRAPH TESTS
GREEN, LOUIS

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014454

KENNEDY

INVESTIGATION INTERVIEW SCHEDULE

1. Identifying Information:

Name PAUL L BENTLEY

Address 9010 DUNMORE

City/State DALLAS, TEX

Date of Birth 6-29-21

Social Security 457-12-5378

Date MAY 4, 1978 7:45 PM

Place RESIDENCE

Telephone 349-0795

M or S married

Spouse Quenta Mozzele

Children 1 son

2. Physical Description:

Height _____

Weight _____

Ethnic Group _____

Color Eyes _____ Hair _____

Special Characteristics _____

3. Personal History:

a. Present Employment: 1st Natl Bank in Dallas

Address 1401 Elm St.

Telephone 214/744-8242

b. Criminal Record

1. Arrests _____

2. Convictions _____

4. Additional Personal Information:

a. Relative(s): Name _____

Address _____

b. Area frequented: _____

c. Remarks: _____

Investigator

Joseph J. Foster

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

NAME Paul L. Bentley Date 5/4/78 Time 7:45PM
Address 9010 Dunmore Place Residence
Dallas, Texas

Interview: On this date, Staff Investigators John J. Basteri and Albert Maxwell interviewed Paul L. Bentley regarding his position as a polygraph operator with the Dallas Police Department during the period of 1963.

Mr. Bentley is now retired from the Dallas Police Department after twenty-one years of service. The major portion of his service with the Department was spent as a polygraph operator.

From October, 1951 to December, 1951 he attended the Polygraphy School under the tutelage of D. W. E. Wheeler which certified him as a qualified examiner. Beginning from January, 1952 Mr. Bentley began his duties as a polygraph operator for the Dallas Police Department. During this period he not only performed these duties for the DPD, but also was called to assist in polygraph tests for the Dallas Sheriff's Department, Dallas County, all Texas police departments and for the bordering states. He did this work for these units for four to five years until such time when these departments obtained their own polygraph operators. Mr. Bentley, while the Chief Polygraph Operator for

Interviewer

(Signature)

Joseph J. Basteri Albert Maxwell
(Typed)

Date Transcribed May 17, 1978

DPD did perform, along with his two assistants up to 1200 polygraphs per month. Because of this, he testified many times as a polygraph expert and has handled almost every type of offense in the penal code.

After Ruby's killing of Oswald, Mr. Bentley was called to examine from eight to ten persons including police officers and civilians. He could not recall the names of any of those examined. Mr. Bentley did not remember the name of Napoleon J. Daniels. After his memory was refreshed, he did recall examining P. O. Vaughn. He believes, although he was not certain, that the decision as to who was to be examined was made from the office of Captain Fritz. Also, he does not remember anyone failing these examinations with the exception of failing on only one or two questions. All records pertaining to these examinations should be on file with the DPD. These exams, when given, were conducted in a room with only the person given the test and the person giving the test present. Adjacent to the examining room, was an observation room and present in this room at times was another polygraph operator and the person requesting the examination. In this room all procedures could be viewed and heard. The person being examined was not aware of this room.

During the course of this interview it was learned that when Bentley entered the department he was immediately placed in the undercover unit. As such, he had firsthand knowledge of the criminal activity in the Dallas area. While on this

assignment, he reported only to Officers Ganaway and Butler. Mr. Bentley only recalls the Lois Green gang as having any control in criminal activities in the Dallas area and surrounding communities. He knew of no other organization having any control over crime in Dallas. The gang members he recalls were Lois Green, Cecil Green, Nick Cascio, Jack Todd and R. D. Matthews. He has never heard Jack Ruby's name mentioned in connection with this organization. The extent of their criminal activities was gambling, burglaries, safe cracking, narcotics and women. When we mentioned John Grizzaffi's name, Bentley described him as a gambler, but not in the same league as the Green gang. This gang was disbanded when Lois Green was murdered by a gunman with a shotgun in front of the Sky Club on Fort Worth Avenue. Jack Todd, according to Bentley, was suspected for this killing for a long time. Bentley does not recall any new gang forming to replace the Green group.

Bentley stated that as the Chief Polygraph operator at no time was there any scandal attached to the Dallas Police Department. If such an investigation did exist he would be called upon to examine members of the DPD involved in such a scandal. The only scandal he does recall was the examination of a Lieutenant and a police officer who were dismissed for stealing suits during the commission of a burglary.

In the course of our interview, Bentley related that he had been called to examine the auto of Officer J. D. Tippitt

for any signs of fingerprints. We asked him about the window on the passenger side of Tippitt's auto. At first, Bentley replied that he believed the window was opened, but then stated that the window may have been partially closed because he faintly recalls taking some prints off the top of the window. While there, word came over the police radio notifying that the possible killer of Officer Tippitt was in the Texas Theatre. He then proceeded to the theatre entering through the front entrance while the other officer went into the building through the rear. Bentley immediately went upstairs to the projection room and requested that they put on the theatre lights. Bentley then went downstairs and saw Officer McDonald walking up the isle from the front to the rear of the theatre. He then saw a male, later identified as Lee Harvey Oswald, who was seated, get up and draw a gun. Bentley said he was only a few rows back and he jumped towards Lee Harvey Oswald and he and McDonald subdued him. In doing so Bentley had injured his leg. After disarming Oswald, he was placed in the patrol car and taken back to headquarters. At the time they did not know that Lee Harvey Oswald was also a suspect in the killing of President Kennedy. In the search, Bentley had removed Oswald's wallet which contained numerous identifications. Oswald denied doing anything wrong. He made no other statement at this time.